

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A charge pump circuit comprising:
2 a first transistor;
3 a first capacitor coupled to the first transistor;
4 a second transistor coupled to the first transistor; and
5 a second capacitor coupled to the second transistor, wherein the second
6 transistor has a lower threshold voltage than the first transistor at a common source voltage

1 2. The charge pump circuit of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a third transistor coupled to the second transistor; and
3 a third capacitor coupled to the third transistor, wherein the third transistor has
4 a lower threshold voltage than the first transistor at a common source voltage.

1 3. The charge pump circuit of claim 2 further comprising:
2 a fourth transistor coupled to the third transistor; and
3 a fourth capacitor coupled to the fourth transistor, wherein the fourth transistor
4 has a lower threshold voltage than the first transistor at a common source voltage.

1 4. The charge pump circuit of claim 3 further comprising:
2 a fifth transistor coupled to the fourth transistor; and
3 a fifth capacitor coupled to the fifth transistor, wherein the fifth transistor has a
4 lower threshold voltage than the first transistor at a common source voltage.

1 5. The charge pump circuit of claim 3 further comprising four diode-
2 connected transistors, wherein each diode-connection transistor is coupled to a gate of one of
3 the first, second, third, and fourth transistors.

1 6. The charge pump circuit of claim 4 further comprising:
2 a sixth transistor coupled to the fifth transistor;
3 a sixth capacitor coupled to the sixth transistor;
4 a seventh transistor coupled to the sixth transistor;
5 a seventh capacitor coupled to the seventh transistor;
6 an eighth transistor coupled to the seventh transistor; and
7 an eighth capacitor coupled to the eighth transistor, wherein the sixth, seventh,
8 and eighth transistors each have a lower threshold voltages than the first transistor at a
9 common source voltage.

1 7. The charge pump circuit of claim 6 further comprising:
2 a ninth transistor coupled to the eighth transistor;
3 a ninth capacitor coupled to the ninth transistor;
4 a tenth transistor coupled to the ninth transistor;
5 a tenth capacitor coupled to the tenth transistor;
6 an eleventh transistor coupled to the tenth transistor; and
7 an eleventh capacitor coupled to the eleventh transistor, wherein the ninth,
8 tenth, and eleventh transistors each have a lower threshold voltages than the first transistor at
9 a common source voltage.

10 8. The charge pump circuit of claim 7 further comprising:
11 a twelfth transistor coupled to the eleventh transistor;
12 a twelfth capacitor coupled to the twelfth transistor;
13 a thirteenth transistor coupled to the twelfth transistor;
14 a thirteenth capacitor coupled to the thirteenth transistor, wherein the twelfth
15 and thirteenth transistors each have a lower threshold voltages than the first transistor at a
16 common source voltage.

17 9. The charge pump circuit of claim 8 further comprising:
18 a fourteenth transistor coupled to the thirteenth transistor;
19 a fourteenth capacitor coupled to the fourteenth transistor;
20 a fifteenth transistor coupled to the fourteenth transistor; and
21 an fifteenth capacitor coupled to the fifteenth transistor, wherein the fourteenth
22 and fifteenth transistors each have a lower threshold voltages than the first transistor at a
23 common source voltage.

24 10. The charge pump circuit of claim 3 wherein the first and third
25 capacitors are coupled to receive a first clock signal, and the second and fourth capacitors are
26 coupled to receive a second clock signal.

27 11. The charge pump circuit of claim 10 further comprising:
28 a fifth capacitor coupled to the first transistor and a third clock signal;
29 a sixth capacitor coupled to the second transistor and a fourth clock signal;
30 a seventh capacitor coupled to the third transistor and the third clock signal;
31 and

an eighth capacitor coupled to the fourth transistor and the fourth clock signal.

12. A method for receiving an input voltage and providing a boosted output voltage, the method comprising:
increasing a first voltage at a first capacitor;
coupling the first capacitor to a second capacitor through a first transistor;
increasing a second voltage at the second capacitor; and
coupling the second capacitor to a third capacitor through a second depletion transistor.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
increasing a third voltage at the third capacitor;
coupling the third capacitor to a fourth capacitor through a third depletion transistor;
increasing a fourth voltage at the fourth capacitor; and
coupling the fourth capacitor to a fifth capacitor through a fourth depletion transistor.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
increasing a fifth voltage at the fifth capacitor;
coupling the fifth capacitor to a sixth capacitor through a fifth depletion transistor;
increasing a sixth voltage at the sixth capacitor; and
coupling the sixth capacitor to a seventh capacitor through a sixth depletion transistor.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:
increasing a seventh voltage at the seventh capacitor;
coupling the seventh capacitor to a eighth capacitor through a seventh depletion transistor;
increasing an eighth voltage at the eighth capacitor; and
coupling the eighth capacitor to a ninth capacitor through a eighth depletion transistor.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:
increasing a ninth voltage at the ninth capacitor;

3 coupling the ninth capacitor to a tenth capacitor through a ninth depletion
4 transistor;
5 increasing a tenth voltage at the tenth capacitor; and
6 coupling the tenth capacitor to an eleventh capacitor through a tenth depletion
7 transistor.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:
2 increasing an eleventh voltage at the eleventh capacitor;
3 coupling the eleventh capacitor to a twelfth capacitor through an eleventh
4 depletion transistor;
5 increasing a twelfth voltage at the twelfth capacitor; and
6 coupling the twelfth capacitor to a thirteenth capacitor through a twelfth
depletion transistor.

1 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the first transistor has a greater
2 threshold voltage than the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth transistors at a common source
3 voltage.

1 19. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
2 providing a first clock signal to the first and third capacitors; and
3 providing a second clock signal to the second and the fourth capacitors.

1 20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
2 coupling a gate and a drain/source of the first transistor through a fifth
3 transistor in response to the first clock signal;
4 providing a third clock signal to fifth and sixth capacitors coupled to gates of
5 the first and third transistors;
6 coupling a gate and a drain/source of the second transistor through a sixth
7 transistor in response to the second clock signal;
8 providing a fourth clock signals to sixth and seventh capacitors coupled to
9 gates of the second and fourth transistors; and
10 coupling a gate and a drain/source of the third transistor through a seventh
11 transistor in response to the first clock signal.

1 21. A charge pump circuit comprising:
2 a first stage comprising a first depletion field-effect transistor;

3 a second stage comprising a second depletion field-effect transistor, the
4 second stage being coupled to the first stage;
5 a first capacitor coupled to the first stage; and
6 a second capacitor coupled to the second stage.

1 22. The charge pump circuit of claim 21 further comprising:
2 a third stage comprising a third depletion field-effect transistor, the third stage
3 being coupled to the second stage;
4 a fourth stage comprising a fourth depletion field-effect transistor, the fourth
5 stage being coupled to the third stage;
6 a third capacitor coupled to the third stage; and
7 a fourth capacitor coupled to the fourth stage.

1 23. The charge pump circuit of claim 22 further comprising:
2 a fifth stage comprising a fifth depletion field-effect transistor, the fifth stage
3 being coupled to the fourth stage;
4 a sixth stage comprising a sixth depletion field-effect transistor, the sixth stage
5 being coupled to the fourth stage;
6 a fifth capacitor coupled to the fifth stage; and
7 a sixth capacitor coupled to the sixth stage.

1 24. The charge pump circuit of claim 23 further comprising:
2 a seventh stage comprising a seventh depletion field-effect transistor, the
3 seventh stage being coupled to the sixth stage;
4 an eighth stage comprising an eighth depletion field-effect transistor, the
5 eighth stage being coupled to the seventh stage;
6 a seventh capacitor coupled to the seventh stage; and
7 an eighth capacitor coupled to the eighth stage.

1 25. The charge pump circuit of claim 24 further comprising:
2 a ninth stage comprising a ninth field-effect transistor, the ninth stage being
3 coupled to the eighth stage;
4 a tenth stage comprising a tenth depletion field-effect transistor, the tenth stage
5 being coupled to the ninth stage;

6 an eleventh stage comprising an eleventh field-effect transistor, the eleventh
7 stage being coupled to the tenth stage;
8 a ninth capacitor coupled to the ninth stage;
9 a tenth capacitor coupled to the tenth stage; and
10 an eleventh capacitor coupled to the eleventh stage.

1 26. The charge pump circuit of claim 22 wherein the first and third
2 capacitors are coupled to receive a first clock signal, and the second and fourth capacitors are
3 coupled to receive a second clock signal.

1 27. The charge pump circuit of claim 26 further comprising:
2 a fifth capacitor coupled to a gate of the first depletion transistor;
3 a sixth capacitor coupled to a gate of the second depletion transistor;
4 a seventh capacitor coupled to a gate of the third depletion transistor; and
5 an eighth capacitor coupled to a gate of the fourth depletion transistor, wherein
6 the fifth and seventh capacitors are coupled to receive a third clock signal, and the sixth and
7 eighth transistors are coupled to receive a fourth clock signal.

1 28. The charge pump circuit of claim 27 further comprising:
2 a fifth transistor coupled across two terminals of the first transistor and to the
3 first capacitor;
4 a sixth transistor coupled across two terminals of the second transistor and to
5 the second capacitor;
6 a seventh transistor coupled across two terminals of the third transistor and to
7 the third capacitor; and
8 an eighth transistor coupled across two terminals of the fourth transistor and to
9 the fourth capacitor.

1 29. An integrated circuit comprising:
2 programmable logic circuitry; and
3 a charge pump circuit comprising:
4 first and second stages coupled together,
5 a first capacitor coupled to the first stage, and
6 a second capacitor coupled to the second stage, wherein the second
7 stage comprising a depletion transistor.